

Teach Us to Pray

By Red Miller

On one hand, prayer is so simple that even a child can pray. On the other hand, even the most spiritually mature Christian men and women sometimes struggle with prayer.

Even Jesus Disciples seemed to have this problem. These men were all Jews so they very likely had grown up in strict religious homes. They very likely had gone to the Synagogue and had prayed all their lives. If you had asked the Disciples if they knew how to pray they would probably have been offended. They could have quoted many verses in the Bible concerning prayer.

Yet, as a result of Jesus's prayers they saw something different. Jesus would go into prayer in one mood and come out in another. To them prayer had been a form but to Jesus it was a force that changed things. Seeing Jesus pray made the Disciples know there was something lacking in their way of praying so they asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray."

Of course we all know the rest of the story. Jesus told them, "When you pray say, 'Our father who art in heaven Hallowed be thy name...'" The first step to believing prayer is to receive God. We must recognize who we are talking to and acknowledge Him without reservation.

When a person prays with their mind centered on God the prayer will be positive rather than negative and will give hope. God has the power and wisdom to answer every prayer and our hope is in Him.

It would be good for all of us rather than praying repetitiously and without much thought to study and meditate on "The Lord's Prayer" and use it as a pattern for our personal prayers.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philip. 1:4